

CLAIMS

1. Method for loading a new release of an application into a computer device in an object-oriented programming language and permitting, among others, the introduction of additional classes, the modification of the class hierarchy and the definition of further fields and methods,

characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

- computing, prior to that loading, a piece of information for matching the classes of the earlier application release to the classes of the new application release;
- computing, prior to that loading, a piece of information for matching the static field identifiers of the earlier application release to the static field identifiers of the new application release;
- linking said matching information to the new application release as loaded into the device;
- using said matching information to modify the objects so that they point at the classes of the new application release and they use the new static field identifiers of the new application release.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that said matching information are lookup tables.

3. Method according to Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said matching information is omitted when these objects are not to be modified, for example, and in a non limiting way when no further class is

added to the new application release or when the newly added classes do not change the class hierarchy.

4. Method according to any preceding claim,

- 5 characterized in that it includes the implementation of procedures for updating the application data after the new application release has been installed.

5. Method according to any preceding claim,

characterized in that said computer device is a chip card.

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6. Method according to any preceding claim,

characterized in that said programming language is the "Java Card" language.